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E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/27/2018
TAGS: [PREL](#) [OSCE](#) [GR](#) [RS](#) [GG](#) [AM](#) [AJ](#)
SUBJECT: GREECE/OSCE: GREEK VIEWS ON HELSINKI MINISTERIAL

REF: STATE 125626

Classified By: DCM Deborah McCarthy for 1.4 (b) and (d)

¶1. (C) A/Political Counselor met 11/28 with Deputy Head of the MFA OSCE Chairmanship Task Force, Louis-Alkiviadis Abadis, to deliver reftel points on the U.S. priorities for the Helsinki OSCE Ministerial. Abadis had the following comments on our points:

-- Ministerial Declaration: He noted that CIO/Finland has been approaching key OSCE member states in capitals to review a possible declaration. Greece strongly supports this effort, and "very much" hopes a declaration can be achieved. Greece had "few changes" to the text proposed by the Finns. A/Political Counselor highlighted the U.S. view that we would also welcome a declaration, but the U.S. believes that any declaration must speak honestly about human dimension and regional challenges and propose actions and solutions based on existing OSCE principles and commitments. In our view, a weak declaration could suggest existing commitments are open for reinterpretation. Abadis said Greece "generally agrees," and is "pessimistic" that a declaration can actually be achieved.

-- Summit: As the likely host of any possible 2009 Summit, Greece is "following this issue very closely." Abadis took note of the U.S. position that any discussion of a possible OSCE Summit is premature and that the rationale for a summit must be driven by the substance. Abadis said Greece expects to have a greater sense of "how things stand" after Helsinki. Greece agrees that it is "early," and any potential deliverables are "not clear."

-- Georgia: Abadis said Greece shares the U.S. view that the OSCE monitoring mission should be extended, and that it is essential that this extension not undermine the international community's support for Georgia's territorial integrity. He was less forthcoming in response to our points that it is essential that the mission also maintain its operational effectiveness. He noted that there are "ongoing quiet discussions" about how the mission might be restructured -- including to have "different thematically-oriented offices, but under the aegis of the mission" as a way forward with the Russians. A/Political Counselor emphasized the importance of the OSCE mission's work, the importance of ensuring that the mission remains effective, and the need to be certain that the manner in which the OSCE handles this issue not call into question any aspect of Georgia's territorial integrity.

-- Continuity in OSCE Activities: Abadis raised the so-called "Quintet" decision. A/Pol Counselor drew on reftel points to note that we are reluctant to see OSCE flexibility in this area replaced by a bureaucratic process. Abadis responded that Greece did not see this procedures as "bureaucratic," and is keenly interested to know if it will be working with a "Quintet or Quartet" as CIO in 2009.

-- OSCE Budget: Abadis said that he understood progress had

been made in Vienna and that the U.S. had been "constructive." He criticized the Russian approach on the budget, noting that the Russians have been "the largest problem."

¶2. (C) In a brief aside in the hallway, OSCE Chairmanship Task Force head Ambassador Kalantzianos said he was aware the U.S. was delivering points on the Helsinki Ministerial and promised to ensure FM Bakoyannis was aware of these views prior to the Ministerial.

¶3. (C) Abadis also highlighted a few other items of interest:

-- Special Representative for Georgia and Moldova: FM Bakoyannis has named recently retired Ambassador Haralambros Christopoulos to be the Special Envoy of the CIO for Georgia and Moldova. Abadis said Christopoulos had already traveled to Vienna to participate in a Moldova 3 + 2 round of talks. (Note: We do not know Christopoulos, and are seeking bio information and any relevant background, which we will provide to the Department and USOSCE. End Note)

-- Personal Representative of the CIO for Nagorno-Karabakh: FM Bakoyannis will maintain Ambassador Andrzej Kasprzyk in this position.
SPECKHARD